

It was in the dark of night when heinous thugs, armed with horrific weapons, burst into the dorm rooms of sleeping girls who were preparing to take exams to improve their lives. Their parents had worked hard. They were like any other parents here in the United States or around the world, loving their children; and these heinous thugs with their vile leader, Boko Haram, stole them—stole their innocence and, in a certain sense, their virginity. Now we are struggling to find them.

For over a year, many of us pressed the Nigerian Government to find and bring back the girls. In the spring of 2014, I traveled to the northern state with my colleague Ms. WILSON and with my colleague from Texas, and we met with broken families and with the girls who had escaped. We saw the northern state. We were not welcomed by the words that we were saying, which was “bring the girls back.” We met with generals in our military. We saw our military’s compassion under the Africa Command, and we saw that they were ready to be of assistance. Those generals, I must say, said that they were ready.

In the course, Boko Haram has killed 15,000 people. There are thousands who are displaced—1.5 million, I believe the number is—and these girls are still missing. They are said to have been married off, but some girls are worth rescuing. All girls are worth rescuing. All children are worth saving. Today, we will stand on the steps of the Capitol, begging for help from the international community.

I must make mention that the African Union, through the auspices of the United Nations, has developed a strategy and a military effort, led by Chad, Niger, Cameroon, and Nigeria, but they are still not found—they are still not caught—and Boko Haram continues to be the heinous, vile organization that should not exist in attacking the innocent people of Nigeria. Boko Haram has declared itself part of the family of ISIL. That alone stands to promote them as a heinous terrorist group, and they should draw the attention of the world just like ISIL has drawn the attention of the world.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, I am calling upon the United States, who I believe has a deep commitment to find these girls, to be able to engage in an intensified effort to find them and a collaborative effort with our expertise, continued, to be able to assure that these girls are brought home, but that Boko Haram does not continue to flaunt itself.

Let me add al-Shabaab, that did the heinous killings of students in Kenya. We must be concerned about a continent that is our friend, a continent that desires to do trade and business with us, a continent that looks to America—Africa, who loves America. You can see the array of Africans who are here in the United States. I have

the largest population of Nigerians—wonderful, good people, doctors and teachers, lawyers, public servants. But we must stand with them to bring these girls back.

Let me show you the mutilating and destroying of Christian artifacts, the destruction of towns left in their midst. They don’t care, and I am outraged that they are standing.

Let me say this, Mr. Speaker, as I ask for them to be rescued, as I go to express this in an open forum to our community, our Nation. Let me add that part of the work of the Department of Justice deals with issues of human trafficking, and sometimes it takes it internationally.

So I conclude my remarks by saying that we must—we must—confirm as General, Loretta Lynch, the Attorney General nominee of the United States of America. This is an African American woman that has been held without conscience. She is qualified; she is ready to serve; and I would ask my colleagues to show to the world what kind of country America is—that we follow process, and that this individual be allowed to serve her nation as she desires to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Kenny Gooden, Union Grove Baptist Church, Yadkinville, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, today, we humbly come into Your presence, confessing our sins, asking You for mercy, grace, and forgiveness. We come, recognizing Your greatness and Your power, understanding today that, from Heaven, You oversee all that we do. We come, thanking You for the many blessings that You have bestowed upon this Nation in years past. For Your divine protection, provisions, and the power that You have bestowed upon us, we are grateful.

Today, we make these requests:

We pray for the Members of this great body that You grant to them safety, divine wisdom, and knowledge as they make decisions which affect both history and every American citizen.

We pray that You give to them a love for both You and this Nation that is unwavering and unsurpassed.

We also pray today for Your protection over the men and women who serve in our Nation’s military all around the world.

And, above everything, we pray today for a real, true revival of righteousness in America, and we make this prayer in the name that is above every name and to which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess—the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COSTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND KENNY GOODEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to introduce our guest chaplain, Reverend Kenneth “Kenny” Gooden, today.

Reverend Gooden is a vital part of the religious community in northwest North Carolina, and he has faithfully shepherded the flock at Union Grove Baptist Church in Yadkinville for 25 years.

He previously served the faithful of Pilot View Baptist Church in High Point and of West Yadkin Baptist Church in Hamptonville. He attended North Iredell High School, Mitchell Community College, and Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

He is accompanied today by his wife, Tina; his daughter, Hannah; and his son, Hunter.

Reverend Gooden’s service to God cuts to the very heart of the gospel message of love. He has brightened and enriched the lives of many throughout the years, and we are blessed to have him in our community.

I hope that his words of prayer will remain with all of us as we do the people’s work.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: